

UC Berkeley  
Department of History

History 39K  
Fall 2007

Medicine in American  
Society Since 1880  
J. E. Lesch

Organization and Assignments

Course requirements include reading, discussion, and four papers. In addition, each student will take a turn starting off the discussion of the reading. Class discussion is an important part of the course, and you should prepare for each class meeting by completing the readings assigned for that week. The first paper, of two pages, will be due at the second class meeting on September 5. The second, third, and fourth papers, of five pages each, will be due in class on October 3, October 31, and December 5, respectively. You can find guidelines for writing these papers, and for starting class discussion, on the separate handout called "Directions for papers and for discussion leaders".

All of the reading will be found at the Moffitt Library reserve desk. The following books may be purchased at the Cal Student Store and other locations:

Alan M. Brandt, No Magic Bullet: A Social History of Venereal Disease in the United States Since 1880 (Oxford)

James H. Jones, Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment (The Free Press)

Barron H. Lerner, The Breast Cancer Wars: Fear, Hope, and the Pursuit of a Cure in Twentieth-Century America (Oxford)

Sinclair Lewis, Arrowsmith (Signet Classic)

Roy Porter, Blood and Guts: A Short History of Medicine (W. W. Norton & Company)

Nancy Tomes, The Gospel of Germs: Men, Women, and the Microbe in American Life (Harvard)

In addition, a History 39K Reader will be available for purchase by the fifth week of class. This will contain all of the reading on the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the pharmaceutical revolution, and short supplementary readings on other topics. You can purchase the Reader at Ned's Berkeley Books, 2476 Bancroft Way (across from the campus).

Topics and readings by week

1. 8/29 Introduction
2. 9/5 The history of medicine: a quick tour  
Reading: Roy Porter, Blood and Guts: A Short History of Medicine (complete)

**First paper due**

Part I

3. 9/12 Germs 1  
Reading: Nancy Tomes, The Gospel of Germs, xi-xv, 1-154.
4. 9/19 Germs 2  
Reading: Nancy Tomes, The Gospel of Germs, 155-267.

5. 9/26 Arrowsmith 1

Reading: Sinclair Lewis, Arrowsmith, 1-220 (Chapters 1-20).

6. 10/3 Arrowsmith 2

Reading: Sinclair Lewis, Arrowsmith, 221-456 (Chapters 21-40), and Afterword.  
**Second paper due**

## Part II

7. 10/10 Breast cancer 1

Reading: Barron H. Lerner, The Breast Cancer Wars, xi-xvi, 1-140.

8. 10/17 Breast cancer 2

Reading: Barron H. Lerner, The Breast Cancer Wars, 141-301.

9. 10/24 Venereal diseases 1

Reading: Alan M. Brandt, No Magic Bullet, ix-x, 3-121.

10. 10/31 Venereal diseases 2

Reading: Alan M. Brandt, No Magic Bullet, 122-204.  
**Third paper due**

## Part III

11. 11/7 The Tuskegee syphilis experiment 1

Reading: James H. Jones, Bad Blood, ix-xv, 1-131.

12. 11/14 The Tuskegee syphilis experiment 2

Reading: James H. Jones, Bad Blood, 132-241, and Reader selection TBA.

13. 11/21 Topic to be announced

14. 11/28 HIV/AIDS

Reading: Reader selections TBA.

15. 12/5 The pharmaceutical revolution

Reading: Reader selections TBA.  
**Fourth paper due**

